

# Georgetown Herald

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Man's Inhumanity

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn" is proving as true today as when the poet wrote it years back.

The current handling of marching demonstrations in Alabama by state officials is deplorable. Particularly in view of the reason for the marches—the simple request for the basic right of democracy—the vote.

No one can know how long it may take for the brotherhood to which we give lip service, but seldom our hearts, will become reality on this continent.

Great strides have been made in the past few years in the relentless struggle for equality by Americans whose skins are darker than ours.

In our mind, the struggle assumes two forms — one easily solved, the other much more difficult.

And it is the denial of this first — basic rights of citizens — which has put Selma in the world news today. The

right to vote, the right to enjoy equal opportunities in education, in use of public buildings and transportation, in holding public office are things which cannot be denied any citizen. If they are denied, then we do not live in a democracy at all. Hitler taught us a bitter lesson when he proved that it is possible to use other than skin colouring as the basis for oppression.

Once the first hurdle is overcome, securing these basic rights for all Americans, we can get down to the much more difficult question of brotherhood. For one can legislate forever, but one cannot alter human hearts by law alone.

Barriers of religion and race must be broken carefully by men of good will on both sides of the picture. Man has been struggling for two thousand years to spread his Sunday religion into six other days. He will keep struggling, and meanwhile every forward step, no matter how small, inches him forward to that universal goal.

### Sob Sister Stuff

The Rivard escape, in the midst of the Dorion inquiry, has added a surprising twist to what has already become one of Canada's most bizarre news stories.

While police search diligently to capture Canada's most wanted resident, our daily papers have gone about glamorizing him to the point of nausea. He is pictured as always the gentleman — a myth which interviews with his wife are helping to perpetuate.

His escape was in the tradition of Robin Hood — a kindly word not to be too hard on his guards. A phone call to the owner of the commandeered car, and a tip for its use. Love letters to the sweet little woman who must stay behind until this whole nasty business is over and Rivard restored to his rightful place in society.

Along the way we seem to be losing sight of the essentials — that this man is charged with one of society's most heinous crimes, traffic in narcotics, that his friends have been convicted of a variety of major crimes, that the government is shaky because of allegations of bribery on his behalf.

Our daily papers are too prone to push the sob sister angle in many such cases. In their search for human interest, they obscure salient facts time after time, and unconsciously arouse public sympathy for people who do not deserve it.

It's time we stopped treating people suspected of major crimes as some sort of Robin Hood. It's time politicians became more careful of their associations, time we began to honour honesty and clean living.

We have seen what gangsterism can do to a country like the United States. And we are frightened when we see the inroads it is making in Canada. Let's stop idolizing the Rivards and treat them the way they deserve.

### Judge a Mystery Man

When Halton's new Judge Sprague takes his new appointment later this month, don't be too shocked if he doesn't look like his picture in the Herald last week.

The judge underwent a transformation when a couple of desperate Herald editors were faced with having a blank white space or enlisting the aid of an as yet unidentified mystery man whose picture had appeared in some past issue.

It happened this way. When a picture is to be used in the Herald, it is photographed on a piece of plastic and, when the newspaper is to be printed, the plastic reproduction is glued onto a blank space on the page left for this purpose. There was a mix-up last week and the composing room thought there was to be a picture of the judge to

accompany the news story of his appointment.

The error was discovered at the last minute, just as the "mats" were ready for processing prior to printing. To change the front page, set type and roll another mat would have thrown the production schedule haywire. So, knowing that as yet no one in this district knows the new judge, we decided to pick a face from our mystery collection.

Apparently we were successful in choosing someone who looks like a judge, for no one has commented to date.

We'll try and bring you the real Judge Sprague when he arrives in the county. Meanwhile our apologies to Mr. X, whoever he is, for standing in for us in an emergency.



SPRING TRAINING

## NEWS DESK EXTRAS

by Jerry Harley

So the police don't have to find their sense of humour? We know.

My day-old son is plenty scrawny. His mouth is wide with screams or yawns. His ears seem larger than he's needing. His skin is very, very red. He has no hair upon his head. And still I'm proud as proud can be. To hear you say he looks like me.

"Au Rivard," smiled the constable.

Speaking of police, a woman driver admits to sadistic prankery which must put furrows in their legal brows. She parks her car in a no parking zone and then removes the windshield wipers.

A news release tells us the medical profession is making progress in the development of smartness pills. We can hardly wait to see the Madison Ave. product pushers give them the treatment. Look smart, be smart — Use Fletcher's Smartness Pills. Wise Up — Buy Wilson's Instant Wisdom. Or, Hey Fathead — Be An Egg head. Use Klugman's Knowledge Capsules. (No call)

We imagine the pills will be made available to humans in a crash program. At present they are being used on rats only. Naturally man cannot have rodents being brainier than himself.

The Ontario Department of Highways came through with flying colours. They created quite a problem when they tagged the Highway 401 the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway obviously an awkward label destined for abbreviation. The announcement was still fresh when motorists were trying to reduce the seven-syllable title to something reasonable. The Macway was one nick name we heard. The highways people solved their own problem. Signs are now being prepared designating the route as the M.C. Freeway.

A new father contributed this in hopes that other proud

### How To Watch For Flood Threats

Heads of municipalities adjacent to floodlands fringing the banks of the Credit and Etobicoke rivers have been advised on how to watch and prepare for the threats of flood.

In an advisory letter, the Hon. John R. Simonett, minister of the Dept. of Energy & Resources at Queen's Park, suggests formation of a corps of river watchers.

He proposes establishment of permanent flood committees composed of heads of all civic departments and welfare agencies.

Inventory of all equipment such as boats, cars, tools, blankets, rubber boots, sandbags, and portable pumps is also recommended.

He also advocates that a member of the flood committee be assigned to watch daily weather forecasts and alert proper authorities when the threat of flood seems imminent.

### District at a Glance

**BRAMPTON** — Reeve Cyril Clark of Chinguacousy Twp. and Mayor Russel Prouse of Brampton have suggested an amalgamation of the two communities would provide the only solution to efficient and economical government.

**ROCKWOOD** — At the regular council meeting last week, the Rockwood Recreation Centre and Board of Directors under the Communities Centre Act.

**ACTON** — Acton Chamber of Commerce's April meeting will be a dinner honouring the town's Citizen of the Year. The name of the person selected for the honour will be announced before the dinner.

**MILTON** — Milton is trying to convert all householders to the habit of putting out their garbage in plastic bags. On the first try 75 per cent of the people had their refuse at roadside in neat green plastic bags.

**OAKVILLE** — Two developers last week announced their intentions of constructing two separate multiple family housing complexes at \$5,000,000 combined.

## NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1954 and 1944

### 10 YEARS AGO

- The North Halton High School District Board has engaged two new teachers to teach at Georgetown. Mrs. S. Hardie of Norval, and Mr. Damon Roberts, who will come from Lincolnshire, England.
- Georgetown added two police officers to the new town force yesterday when they hired Forrest Inch, London, and Clifford Found, Kitchener. The men will commence their duties in June.
- Youngsters who want to learn some baseball know-how will be able to get some tips from Harold Cole, the new proprietor of the Golden Gate Cafe. Mr. Cole spent several years in pro ball in the States as a southpaw pitcher.

### 20 YEARS AGO

- The board and staff of Georgetown public school held a dinner and presentation in the Oddfellows hall last Thursday evening to honour Miss Georgina Young, who is retiring from the staff after many years service.
- Georgetown is proud to welcome back six more servicemen from overseas this week in Cpl. Ed Francis, Sgt. Jim Saigent, Pte. George Greenward, Petty Officer Jim Emmertson, Flt. Sgt. George Walker and Sgt. Bev Moody. All boys arrived home Friday and Saturday night most of them were downtown greeting friends.

## SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

### HUMOR ISN'T FUNNY

For the past few weeks, I've been confronted by an enigma. This word does not mean, as one of my students told me, "Something a nurse gives you in the hospital, before you have an operation."

The enigma is this: what is humor? And the reason it confounds me is that some misguided people asked me to be one of the judges in a competition involving humor. Equally misguided by an inflated ego, I accepted.

I should have known better. Had that being a judge is all that difficult, I've judged public speaking contests with great success. Everyone agreed completely with my decisions. Except those who didn't win, and their relatives and friends.

I've judged races at the Sunday School picnic. And had to fork over a dime to every runner because, "I would beat him if he haddens tripped me (or shoved me, or beat the gun)."

And there'd be no trick to judging a beauty contest, I'm sure. Although there's always the danger of getting a bust in the eye from some disgruntled contestant. Or even from some grunting one.

But judging humor is a horse of a different color. There's all ways, in fact, the essence of misjudging the dark horse which turns the whole thing into somewhat of a nightmare.

The character of humor is as perverse and varied in its qualities as the character of women. Picking the winner in a humor contest is as tricky as picking a wife. Everybody else thinks you made a bum choice.

Do you want Mabel, who howls you over an first acquaintance? Or do you want Carl, who will wear well over the years? Do you want an hilarious companion for an evening or a quiet chuckle once a week for generations? Humor is in the eye of the beholder.

It's no use. Let's get back to the enigma. What is humor? Ask the first person you meet, and he'll say, "It's anything that makes you laugh."

Well, it's not, necessarily. People will howl with laughter from sheer nerves, giggle interminably from drink, or titter uncontrollably from a story whose point they have missed completely.

People will laugh at practically anything. Only yesterday, I was looking out the window. A young matron, known for her high opinion of herself, mince

ed along, serene in her mink. Right in front of our place, she went her fool on a piece of ice.

More words cannot describe the back-gallop she performed, the way she looked, flut on her tummy, fur hat over her nose. Only a camera could capture the wild, desperate look she threw around to see if anyone had spotted the spill. Only the great Charlie Chaplin could have imitated the frantic scramble to her feet, the desperate effort to stroll off as though nothing had happened.

Did I laugh? Thought I'd bust a gut. I was glad she wasn't hurt, but the mad people, and a tremendous ball out of seeing the deflation of a stuffed shirt. Or girle, in this case.

What is humor? I've no idea. For some, it is the bitter, even vicious, parody of a political cartoon. For others, it is the realist, the man who sees life without rose-colored glasses. For some, it is the stuff scribbled on the walls of a washroom. For others, it is the mechanical, canned wit of the professional comedian. The pun, the gag, the topical reference.

All I can say is, "Never again." Even judging a baby contest would be child's play, to this. At least the entire would all be made of the same material.

### DON'T CARE

Human carelessness is the cause of four out of five forest fires in Ontario. Lightning causes the rest.

### Georgetown Herald

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Walter C. Bishop  
Publisher

Garfield McGillivray  
Production Superintendent

Leslie Clark Dave Hastings  
M. Gilson J. McClements

Jerry Mahucky  
Terry Harley Alleen Bradley  
News Editor Accountant

Frank Mullin  
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